

AUDITION #11 - Act II, Scene 10, Pages 40-41

• HERMAN

2-10-40

ACT TWO

Scene 10

The BALLROOM.
Everyone is scurrying around.

ALICE

SHhhh ... She's coming ... she's coming!!!

(Ad-libs)

HERMAN

SHhhh ... OK everybody hide and be quiet. I want this to be a God-damned surprise party.

(Tells everyone where to go.)

And keep your heads down!

JOHN S.

Hey, Herman, what about you?

HERMAN

Oh, yeah, I forgot.

(Ducks behind banquette.)

CHARITY walks in carrying her suitcase. SHE looks around.)

CHARITY

Hey. Hello? Hello, I'm going ... Anyone here to say goodbye to me? ... No? ...

(There is no answer. SHE shrugs.)

Okay -- Well ... goodbye!

(SHE turns to go when suddenly 25 people spring out of nowhere and shout "Surprise!" CHARITY screams in fright. All the HOSTESSES are there and about ten men including HERMAN, a COP, a couple of WAITERS, a JANITOR and maybe a couple of regular customers.)

HERMAN

You didn't think we'd let you go without givin' ya a little party, did ya?

CHARITY

A party? For me? Oh, you shouldn't have. You shouldn't have.

NICKIE

(To HELENE)

I told you we shouldn't have.

(There is a fanfare as TWO MEN pick CHARITY up. SOMEONE else brings out a box and THEY set CHARITY down on it in the center of the room. CHARITY (Ad-libs, yells out), "Hey, what're you doing? Put me down" ... THEY place a box down for HERMAN who stands on it.)

HERMAN

And now, through the courtesy of the Hostesses of the Fan Dango Ballroom, Local 107, the waiters, the janitor, Joe the bouncer, Harry the Cop, and our three regular customers since 1954 ... we present ...

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CAKE FANFARE

(Another fanfare)

... A seventeen dollar cake.

(A huge cake is wheeled out on a cart, as EVERYONE oohs and ahs. THEY place it in front of CHARITY.)

CHARITY

(Excited)

Beautiful!

(She bends over and reads inscription.)

... "Happy Birthday Angelo"???

NICKIE

(Whacks HERMAN across the shoulders.)

You couldn't get a new cake, you cheapskate?

(Ad-libs)

HERMAN

All right, all right. I didn't know she was leavin' till this morning.

(THEY ALL shout "Cheapskate" at HERMAN.)

CHARITY

Never mind. It's the sentiment that counts ... Herman, Angelo and I thank you very much.

HERMAN

(Smiles at Charity) For a broad, you gotta lotta class.